MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Tim Marchant, Ian Cannock (Chair), David Cradock, Fiona Crockett, Lisa Coles and Jean Fossaceco (Clerk)

Also Present: No members of the public attended.

1. **Apologies**: Tricia Wastvedt and Fiona Gourley (Ward Councillor)
2. **Declaration of Interests for this meeting:** None declared
3. **10 Minutes public participation:** None requested
4. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** All in order

5. Clerk's Report	**ACTION**	**TIMELINE**
As distributed. It was acknowledged more information on costs related to the adoption of gov.uk or similar emails and a dedication PC website are required.	JF	By next meeting
6. Ward Councillor Report		
Our Ward Councillors were unable to attend but are dealing with some issues that have been reported to them including the Cinder Path and the bus stop.		
7. Financial Matters		
Village Newsletter – PC contribution to costs - £850.00 (paid as agreed) **Play Area Repairs** – B&NES £468.00 (already paid) **Dunkley and Co (Payroll**) - £60.62 (already paid) **Greenways invoice** - £185.00 x 2 (already paid) **Preparing for Assertion 10 (AGAR 2025/26)** including adopting gov.uk email addresses or similar and domain. It was proposed the Council agree on the concept of the acceptance of this and it will be discussed further once costs involved have been further clarified. Proposed IC and seconded DC – all in favour. The Clerk will attend an information session with Avon Local Councils Association on 9th October to gain further information and support. **Money in:** **VAT Reclamation** - : £1,588.94	JF	Attend meeting 9th October
8. Planning		
25/02889/FUL - Braysdown Stables Ltd Gassons Peasedown St John Bath Bath and North East Somerset BA2 8FE - Temporary siting of a rural workers static caravan for a four-year period. **25/03378/FUL –** Replacement Footbridge across Wellow Brook By Greenacres Littleton Lane Wellow Bath Bath And North East Somerset	A response of 'Support' has been submitted to B&NES Planning A response of 'Support' will be submitted to B&NES Planning	JF ASAP
9. Climate, Nature and Sustainability Working Group		
Nothing to report. As the PC representative was unable to attend.		
10. Village Hall and Recreation Field		
• **Village Hall** - Heating improvements have taken place including the installation of heat pumps which are far more efficient. Door adjustments to the room to the rear of the hall will be made to allow them to be opened at a 180-degree angle. Following a request from a resident who is wheelchair bound, surface improvements at the entrance to the Hall are being		

investigated to allow for better and safer access together with the potential installation of a disabled toilet in line with our responsibility to make 'reasonable adjustments'. The location and costs for this together with possible refurbishments to all the toilets are being explored by the Village Hall Management Committee. As Trustees, the Parish Council would like to support and encourage these proposals. • **Maintenance of the Recreation Field and Play Area** – Following a break in communications between TM and our contractor, it has now been confirmed that the area is soon to be cut together with the verges. Hedge trimming will be undertaken by arrangement with a local farmer. It was acknowledged there is an issue with mole hills, worse this year than previous years, due to excessive rain in February/March and excessive heat in the summer. The goal posts are regularly moved to allow for more even wear and tear on the grass. The cricket nets are to be secured with industrial staples following concerns raised by members of the community with other issues being explored. The Western Boundary is still doing well. There has been a problem with a fire being started and then the building of 'bonfire' structures with potential for another fire. Due to the vigilance of near neighbours who noticed the fire and other members of the PC and the community who noted the structures, these have been dismantled and the wood removed. A member of the boules team has offered to repair the boundary wall of the boules pitch. Two of our PC members, DC and TM, have removed overhanging branches in the play area which has also improved the ground area beneath. DC and TM will be looking at the bent lamppost by the car park if this needs to be removed or can be straightened. • **Septic Tank** - A local builder will be working on the area of the septic tank to fill in and level the ground.	TM/VHMC TM DC/TM	Ongoing By the next meeting By the next meeting
11. Burial Board		
Proposal to fence off part of the new cemetery land/clerk vacancy – no further updates have been received regarding this. A request has been included in the newsletter asking for volunteers to help out with various tasks in the cemetery.		
12.Councillor Reports		
A) HELAA/Local Plan – On inspection of the Local Plan updates, further blocks of land have been identified as potential areas for development. The Clerk will mention this in the next newsletter. See below: The B&NES Local Plan which sets out the location and scale of development activity for the period up to 2042, is due to enter the important public consultation phase soon if adopted by B&NES council this month. One of the key parts is the latest Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment which contains a number of sites for consideration to the south of Peasedown St John and around the western end of Shoscombe village. If all were developed Shoscombe village would become linked to PSJ.	JF	Next newsletter

Shoscombe Parish Council encourages all residents to take part in the upcoming consultation and communicate with our B&NES councillors their views. Further details can be found on the links below: https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/emerging-local-plan https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/local-plan-options-evidence-base-draft-housing-and-economic-land https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/HELAA%20Parishes.pdf **B) Public Rights of Way** – The hedging along the Cinder Path has been cut back by the landowner whose fields adjoin this path. Both the school and the PC are grateful for this. Concerns raised over the route towards the cemetery were examined and it is confirmed that this is a BOAT – Byway Open to All Traffic and is not our responsibility. It has been pointed out by the landowner that access is still being used across the field between the Recreation Field and the School/Cinder Path. FC will speak to the Headteacher about this so parents can be warned that this is a health and safety risk should work be undertaken on the field e.g. spraying. It was requested that if members of the public see small issues such as an overhanging bramble, some overgrown vegetarian on a stile/gate or leaves beginning to lay across a drain, could they please help out by removing these. The clerk will mention these in the newsletter. **C) School** – Report distributed by FC. It was noted the school are still looking for a librarian. **D) Highways** – Following meetings with DC, our B&NES Highway Inspector has said he is hoping to proceed with re-surfacing Single Hill from the St Julian's Road/Gullen crossroads down to the bottom of the hill but not until the 2026/27 financial year. They have visited the Montague Rd area and agree that cosmetically the road surface is patchy but it is not dangerous; however, he will attempt to get this attended to. The Inspector has also agreed to order additional 'Double Hill' signage but a 20mph speed limit – effectively moving from 60 to 20 – is not deemed feasible however 30mph/SLOW signs are being considered. With regard to hedge/verge cutting, this will take place towards the end of the month with various options concerning certain visibility corners being explored. There have been concerns raised about visibility problems when residents attempt to pull out of the Hamilton Terrace car park area due to cars and vans parked too close to the corner and this has been highlighted in the clerk's newsletter piece. A resident who contacted me quoted Highway Code rule 243; this will be mentioned in the next newsletter. **E) Church –** Nothing to report.	FC/JF JF JF	ASAP/next newsletter Next newsletter Next newsletter
13. Finger Post Maintenance Programme Report (as distributed) – £615.00 remains from donations/grants and the T/T Sale plus £925.00 (VAT reclaimed) = £1,540.00 in hand for maintenance – this was noted by the Council. Hedge cutting will take place that will enable signs to be more visible.		

14. Agreed January and March 2026 meeting dates – See below		
Dates of Next Meetings: **24th September – Bathavon Forum** **15th October – Parish Liaison** **6th November – Parish Council meeting** **8th January 2026 – Parish Council meeting** **12th March – Parish Council** **7th May 2026 – Parish Council Annual Meeting**		